

PATENT ATTORNEYS
FUCHS MEHLER WEISS & FRITZSCHE
WIESBADEN – MUNICH – ALICANTE

Fuchs Mehler Weiß & Fritzsche, Naupliastr. 110, D-81545 Munich

European Patent Office

80298 Munich

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November 26, 2004

PCT/DE03/03067

“Stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ”
Campus Medizin und Technik GmbH”

In response to the correspondence dated October 29, 2004:

Enclosed please find the new Claims 1 to 11. Claim 1 is identical to the currently valid Claim 1 in which, as recommended by the Examination Office, the expression “in relation to the wall segments (11)” has been deleted. Also, for the sake of clarity of Claim 1, the expression “spring devices” was incorporated into the characterizing clause. The original Claim 7 has been deleted. The Claims 2 to 6 are identical to the original Claims 2 to 6. The Claims 7 to 11 are identical to the original Claims 8 to 12.

[signature]
Patent Attorney
Dr. Thomas Fritzsche

Encl.
Claims 1 to 13 (in triplicate)

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September 16, 2004

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“Stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ”
Campus Medizin und Technik GmbH”

We are herewith submitting a new Claim 1 that is derived by combining the current Claims 1 and 7, as well as the description page 5, line 19 f.

The invention is based on a state in which stents change their position as a result of the occurrence of tensile stress after they have been introduced into the respective vessel. Such changes in position can be avoided by using, for example, inflexible, unyielding stents. However, the disadvantage of such stents is that they do not sufficiently touch the vessel to accompany its movements. Based on the above, the purpose of the invention is to offer a stent that is flexible and resilient and does not yield its position in response to tensile and compressive stress. This purpose is achieved with the invention

[see source for address information]

by providing it with an element forming a continuous rod or wire-like connecting line in the axial direction at least along most of the length of the stent. This connecting line now absorbs tensile or compressive stress that might occur and prevents the tube-like stent from being lengthened along the axis of the tube, without impairing the radial-elastic properties necessary in modern stents. Such a continuous line is clearly shown, for example, in Fig. 1 to 3. In order to achieve stability under tensile or compressive stress without impairing flexibility, another characteristic according to the invention is now necessary, namely the thickening of connector 12 forming the longitudinal wire line. It has been shown that such a thickening improves the longitudinal stability without impairing the radial elasticity and flexibility.

The Examination Division now cites US-A 5,707,386 (Document 1) in opposition and is of the opinion that this Document anticipates the methods of the invention and that the invention therefore does not meet the novelty requirement.

D1 describes a stent of the same type whose meander-shaped peripherally extending radial-elastic members are linked with each other with an overlap of half a meander cycle each, resulting in longitudinal strand running in the axial direction that absorbs axial stress. However, as can be seen from the illustrations of the description, the connector devices 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d etc. are thinner than the respective meander elements. However, in this way they do not have the characteristic required of the invention, namely that the connectors have a greater width or material thickness than the wall elements running meander-like or zigzag-like. Only the

strengthening gives the result that the stent according to the invention is especially stable not only in the axial direction but has also good stability in the radial direction and provides particularly good support to the vessel wall.

We hope that with this new Claim 1, the International Examination Office will now recognize that the requirements of novelty and inventive activity have been met. Should this not be the case, against all expectations, we kindly ask to schedule a personal interview.

[signature]
Dr. Thomas Fritzsche
Patent Attorney

Encl.:
New Claim 1 (in triplicate)

PCT/DE03/03067

“Stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ”

Campus Medizin und Technik GmbH

New Claim 1:

1. Stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ, in particular a self-expanding stent (10, 17) that does not change in length under tensile and/or compressive stress and that has several ring-shaped elastic wall segments (11), with a radial-elastic structure, whereby the wall segments (11) are linked with each other via connector devices (12) and the connector devices (12) form at least one continuous longitudinal flange (13, 18) that has at least one component for absorbing a compressive stress in the axial direction or a tensile stress in the longitudinal direction, characterized by the fact that the connector devices (12) have, in relation to the wall segments (11), a greater material thickness and/or width than the spring devices (15).